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Pioneer Trail Research Report #2

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If published in a periodical or serial give: Volume ▼ Number ▼ Issue Date ▼ On Pages ▼

NAME OF AUTHOR ▼

Steve F. Russell

DATES OF BIRTH AND DEATH  
Year Born ▼ Year Died ▼

April 27, 1944

Was this contribution to the work a "work made for hire"?  
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☒ No

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Report of Research conducted by author

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Steve Forrest Russell  
Iowa State University  
Ames, Iowa 50011

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Steve F. Russell  
RR 3

Ames, Iowa 50010

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Steve F. Russell

date ▶ June 11, 1990

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# **Pioneer Trail Research Report #2**

## **June 1, 1990**

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Steve F. Russell

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Pioneer Trail Research

**Report #2**

June 1, 1990

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## **PREFACE**

Research has been completed on the topographic location of the Bird-Truax Trail -- also called the Lolo Trail of 1866. This report documents the route and place names for future researchers. The data base will be continually updated to improve its quality.

Steve F. Russell  
June 1, 1990

TABLE 1.

Bird-Truax Trail or Lolo Trail of 1866, Route description summary and Gazetteer of place names and geographic features for the portion of the Trail between Lewiston and Hell Gate. The symbol "C" following the station number indicates that the location is a camp as indicated in Nicholson's Camping Places Table in the original text on page D11.

Sta.	Elev.	Miles	Location and comments from the Bird-Truax Journals and Reports	Location in USGS & USFS maps and general comments
1	852	0	<u>Lewiston</u>	Lewiston, Idaho The old town right at the forks of the Clearwater and Snake Rivers (Est. TOPO El. 730)
--	----	-----	<u>Clearwater bottoms</u> , "first three miles out from Lewiston"	area east and west along main street, Lewiston (Est. TOPO El. 739)
--	----	3.00	" <u>ascends</u> by a grade of 6 feet in 100 to a plateau"	Old Lapwai Road up the north fork of Lindsay Creek (Est. TOPO El. 855)
--	----	-----	" <u>plateau</u> of 600 elevation above the river"	plateau between the head of Lindsay Creek and Soldiers Canyon (Est. TOPO El. 1325 - 1760) (River elevation at the mouth of Lindsay Cr. is 725 feet)
--	----	-----	"crosses said plateau in gentle undulations"	
--	----	11.80	" <u>descent of 578 feet</u> by a grade of 3.48 feet to 100 to Lapwai Creek"	top of Soldiers Canyon, trail went down it (Est. TOPO El. 1710) (Elevation at the bottom of Soldier Canyon is 980 feet)
--	----	-----	<u>Lapwai Creek</u>	Lapwai Creek at the town of Lapwai (Est. TOPO El. 964)
--	----	13.00	<u>Fort Lapwai</u>	Parade ground at old Fort Lapwai, now called the North Idaho Indian Agency. (Est. TOPO El. 1003)
--	----	-----	"thence up the <u>left bank of Lapwai</u> fording Sweetwater Creek at two miles"	along the west bank of Lapwai Creek about where the highway and railroad are now
--	----	15.00	Ford of <u>Sweetwater Creek</u>	where the highway and railroad cross it (Est. TOPO El. 1100)
2	1834	19.25	<u>Craigs House</u> (Col. Craigs House)	near Jacques at the mouth of Mission Creek. Marcy knew this elevation was in error. He reports the Isaac Stevens PRR Survey elevation as 1240 feet. (Est. TOPO El. 1385)
--	2143	22.50	Foot of <u>Craigs Mountain</u>	East edge of the town of Culatesac. "River" elevation here is 1705 feet. Trail elevation is 1725 feet.
--	----	-----	" <u>ascends Craigs mountain</u> , 1755 feet above the creek reaching the summit at four miles, being an average grade of 8.3 feet in 100 feet."	Old Winchester Grade
--	----	26.50	<u>Top of Craigs Mt.</u>	(Est. TOPO El. 3460)
3	3898	26.50	<u>Craigs Mountain</u> or <u>top of Lapwai Mountains</u> . "upon the margin of a great plateau extending nearly fifty miles east and west" "should be called the Plateau of the Clearwater"	Top of the Winchester Grade about a mile north of the Lewis County line. Marcy gives a confusing account of this elevation. He reports it as 2007.2 feet above station 2. He also reports it as 3347 feet. (Est. TOPO El. 3480) Starting at 1705 feet, a

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rise of 1755 feet would make the elevation 3460 feet.

--	----	-----	"The road passes through a <u>strip of timber</u> seven miles in width"	
4	4052	36.00	<u>Cold Spring</u> , "36 miles from Lewiston"	This precise location is presently unknown. Nicholson reports that about 1000 feet of wagon road will need grading here. (Est. TOPO El. 3670)
--	----	-----	" <u>second table land</u> with a general elevation of 2100 feet above Clearwater." "our ride across it was delightful though in the midst of much snow, it being through luxuriant grass and abundant flowers" "the soil is good and destitute of stones"	This is the Nez Perce Prairie. The general elevation according to the Journal is 2830 feet - but this is much too low.
5	3102	57.00	<u>Davidson's</u> , "down upon a creek which ran into the Clearwater."	On the upper end of Fivemile Creek. Location has not been verified. (Approximate El. 2764)
--	----	-----	"From Davidson's to Schultz Ferry the distance is five miles."	Nicholson reports that about 1000 feet of wagon road will need graded at Davidsons
--	----	-----	<u>Davidson's Creek</u>	Fivemile Creek
--	----	-----	" <u>rise of 668 feet</u> in one mile to the top of the hill"	
--	----	-----	<u>Top of the hill</u>	
6	3726	58.0	<u>Summit W. Clearwater</u> "Station 6 was immediately upon the margin of the cañon"	highest point on the west side in this area. It gives a view of the Nez Perce Prairie all the way west of Winchester and east to Frazer. (Est. TOPO El. 3445)
--	----	-----	" <u>descent</u> in four miles <u>of 2446 feet</u> "	
--	----	-----	<u>Clearwater Hills</u> , on both sides of the river. "the sides too precipitous in most places to be practicable, even for a mule train without grading."	
--	----	-----	"We crossed the <u>cañon of the Clearwater</u> about twelve miles above the point where Lewis and Clark left their horses and made canoes"	Clearwater River about 0.7 miles above the bridge at Greer.
--	----	62.00	<u>Clearwater River</u>	
--	----	-----	"The river here is 524 feet above Lewiston distant by way of the river about sixty miles"	
7	1376	62.00	<u>Schultz Ferry</u> , formerly Bell's Ferry	about 0.7 miles up river from the Greer Bridge (Est. TOPO El. 1045)
--	----	-----	"the <u>ascent</u> is 1932 feet in 3 miles"	
--	----	-----	" <u>The Saddle</u> "	(Est. TOPO El. 1970)
--	----	-----	" <u>The Horse-Shoe</u> "	(Est. TOPO El. 2200)
--	2428	-----	" <u>The Crag</u> ", 880 feet higher is the main crest of the mountain	(Est. TOPO El. 2080)
--	3308	-----	<u>ascent of 880 feet</u> to the top of Schultz hill.	
--	----	65.00	<u>Top of Schultz Hill</u>	(Est. TOPO El. 2960)
8	3225	65.00	<u>Summit E. Clearwater</u>	(Est. TOPO El. 3101)
--	----	70.00	<u>Texas Creek</u> , "We were also upon a little stream which at that point went tumbling into a cañon a thousand feet	Texas Creek (Est. TOPO El. 3020)



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deep - a half mile below. There it spent its force amid a chaos of huge fragments of rock which concealed it from our view."

9	3192	70.00	<u>Texas Ranch</u> , "we were now among larger pines with a beautiful herbage underneath"	at Texas Creek where the old county road crossed the creek (Est. TOPO El. 3020)
10	3228	-----	<u>Camas Prairie</u>	Frazer School (T.R. section) (Est. TOPO El. 3075)
--	----	-----	<u>Road to Oro Fino mines</u>	forks at town of Weippe, Idaho
--	----	-----	<u>"beginning of Oyiye Prairie</u> , 15 miles from the ferry"	at town of Weippe, Idaho (Est. TOPO El. 3023)
--	----	-----	<u>"crosses prairie 3 miles to the timber"</u>	
11	3278	77.00	<u>Oyiye Prairie</u> , "by a small creek amid the foot hills of the mountains."	Weippe Prairie south of the town of Weippe (Est. TOPO El. 3007)
--	----	80.00	<u>Commence Timber Cutting</u>	Heywood Meadows (Est. TOPO El. 3066) (the distance from here to Muscle Creek is 8 ½ miles in Nicholson's text)
--	----	-----	<u>Hills, Prairies, Bottoms</u> "From Oyiye Prairie to Muscle Creek the road runs over some small hills but principally over prairie & timbered bottoms."	
--C	----	88.00	<u>Muscle Creek Camp</u>	(Est. TOPO El. 3180)
--	----	88.00	<u>Muscle Creek</u>	Musselshell Creek
12	3367	88.00	<u>Muscle Creek</u> , "the most prominent point on the road after leaving Lewiston" "by a small creek amid the foot hills of the mountains." "it rained nearly every day of the twenty we delayed" "Muscle Creek the foot of the mountain region proper, beyond which the country is covered with dense forests of evergreen timber, pine, larch, fir, white cedar, Norway spruce, hemlock, etc."	Musselshell Meadows near the old Musselshell Ranger Station (Est. TOPO El. 3180)
--	----	88.00	<u>Tinkham Ranch</u> , I have spoken of the density of the forests. There are however in many places opening covered with rich grass. A list of such places along the line of the road, I made out and caused to be posted at the ranch of Mr. H. Tinkham at Muscle Creek"	Musselshell Meadows at the old mill pond on the west (Est. TOPO El. 3180)
--	----	-----	<u>"In travelling from the ferry to this point our course lay on the North Bank of the Lolo Fork of the Clearwater"</u>	
--	----	-----	<u>"we leave the level country and enter the mountain region"</u>	
--	----	-----	<u>hills above Muscle Creek</u> "From Muscle Creek to Lolo Creek, 5¼ miles it passes over hills whose highest altitude above Muscle Creek is 525 feet."	highest Est. TOPO elevation is 3720 feet.
--	----	-----	<u>Hills above Muscle Creek</u>	(Est. TOPO El. 3720)
13	----	93.25	<u>Lo Lo Ford</u>	Junction of Lolo and Yousa Creeks, also called Lolo Forks. (Est. TOPO El. 3389)
--	----	93.25	<u>Lo Lo Creek</u>	Lolo Creek at Lolo Forks



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--	----	-----	" <u>ascends a spur</u> to an immediate height of 410 feet"	(Est. TOPO El. 3799)
14	----	-----	<u>Hill E. Lolo</u>	(Est. TOPO EL. 3799)
--	----	-----	"keeping as a general thing the <u>back bone of the spur</u> gradually rises to the Neck" "Our course has been almost continuously over snow two to seven feet deep"	
15	4659	97.55	<u>Cold Spring</u> , Camp 11, (It was here that Lewis and Clark were turned back by deep snow on 17th June 1806)	Camp Mildred. Exact location unknown, approximate TOPO elevation is 4745 feet near BM 4871.
--	----	-----	<u>Main Divide</u>	at Camp Martin saddle (Est. TOPO El. 5144)
--C	4964	99.25	<u>The Neck</u> , "11¼ miles from Muscle Creek and of 1850 elevation above Lolo"	Camp Martin area (Est. TOPO EL. 5144) The camping area was down the gulch to the north. The TOPO elevation change should be 1755 feet.
--	----	-----	"a <u>gradual rise of 980 feet</u> is made to the <u>summit of Mt. Truax</u> "	the TOPO elevation change is 896 feet.
16	5944	100.55	<u>Mt. Truax</u> , "It is completely wooded and at this time covered with snow."	Snowy Summit (Est. TOPO El. 6040)
--C	----	100.50	<u>Horse Gulch</u> , "to the north; old trail dips into it."	Soldier Meadows on Middle Creek
--	----	-----	<u>Backbone of Mt. Truax</u>	
--	----	-----	"we <u>descended to a deep ravine</u> and then up, up again to the summit of Muscomax or Squirrel Mountain which has one side not only bare of trees but nearly bare of snow also."	
--	----	-----	" <u>descent of 740 feet</u> to saddle or sag between it and Squirrel Mountain"	
--C	5219	103.00	<u>Pond Saddle</u>	Beaver Dam Saddle (Est. TOPO El. 5290) Camping place was down the gulch to the north.
--	----	-----	" <u>ascends Squirrel</u> or Mus-coe-max mountain 780 above saddle"	
17	6015	104.00	Begin <u>Squirrel Mt.</u> or <u>Mus-coe-max Mt.</u>	start of the west end of Rocky Ridge (Est. TOPO El. 5914)
--	----	-----	" <u>follows its lengthend summit</u> "	goes east and north up Rocky Ridge
--C	----	104.75	<u>Shepherdson's Gulch</u> , "on the east; tree blazed."	Precise location unknown at this time
--	----	-----	<u>Summit of Mus-coe-max Mountain</u> "Here the view opens again and we take bearing of the principal mountains of interest."	Summit of Rocky Ridge (Est. TOPO El. 6540) There is an excellent view of Romeo and Juliet to the east.
--C	----	106.50	" <u>Excellent grass</u> and plenty of it."	Summit of Rocky Ridge (Est. TOPO El. 6540)
--	----	-----	" <u>falls 670 feet</u> to Huston Creek"	
--C	5345	108.5	<u>Huston Creek</u> , "grass and plenty of it down gulches to the N. or S."	Little Weitas Creek. Camping in the meadow to the north of the saddle. Original trail went north into this meadow. (Est. TOPO El. 5380)
--C	----	109.00	<u>Swamp Grass Prairie</u>	Weitas Meadows. The original trail went along the east side. The relocated trail went through the meadow. The corduroy bridges are still visible in 1989. (Est. TOPO El. 5412)
--	----	-----	" <u>rises gradually but sometimes falling</u> to the saddle on the west of Mt. Juliet."	



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18	5575	110.50	<u>Butte Camp</u>	Green Saddle (Est. TOPO El. 5420)
--	----	-----	<u>Saddle to the west</u>	Green Saddle (Est. TOPO El. 5420)
--	----	-----	<u>Mt. Juliet</u>	Ridge north of Bowl Butte. Maximum elevation of Bowl Butte is 6365 feet.
19	6532	112.00	<u>First Butte</u> , east face descent of angle 30 or greater.	Location unknown
--	----	-----	"thence it <u>winds around the north side</u> of this butte striking the saddle between it and Mt. Romeo"	maximum trail elevation is 5840 feet.
--	----	-----	<u>Saddle between</u>	Deep Saddle (Est. TOPO El. 5027)
20	6616	113.50	<u>Second Butte</u>	Location unknown
--	----	-----	<u>Mt. Romeo</u>	Ridge north of Willow Ridge. Maximum elevation of Willow Ridge is 6500 feet.
--	----	-----	" <u>winds around the north side</u> of Romeo to saddle on the east"	maximum trail elevation is 5710 feet.
--	----	-----	<u>Saddle on the east</u>	Sherman Saddle (Est. TOPO El. 4737)
--	----	-----	"The entire distance around these buttes is 6½ miles."	Green Saddle to Sherman Saddle. TOPO distance by the road is 6.85 mi, by the trail, 5.7 mi.
--	----	-----	"Then <u>rising 1074 feet</u> to the top of the ridge"	(on the south and east sides of Chimney Butte)
--	----	-----	<u>Top of Ridge</u> , 1074 feet above the saddle	(Est. TOPO El. 5811)
--	----	-----	<u>Follows ridge</u> 1 mile	ridge west of Sherman Peak
--	----	-----	<u>Mt. Henderson</u>	Sherman Peak (Est. TOPO El. 6658)
--	----	-----	"thence <u>along the north side</u> of Mt. Henderson"	maximum trail elevation is 6140 feet.
--C	----	121.00	<u>Prairie Saddle</u>	Noseeum Meadows (Est. TOPO El. 5890) Camping place was down gulch to the south.
--	----	-----	" <u>ascends 250 feet</u> by side hill grade to a ridge"	
--	----	-----	<u>Start of the ridge</u>	exact location unknown. approximate elevation is 6040 feet.
--	----	-----	follows <u>gently undulating summit</u> of ridge.	past the "Dry Camp" of Lewis and Clark
21C	6528	125.00	<u>Meadow mountain</u> , "37 miles from Muscle Creek at an altitude of 6000 feet the highest yet reached." "best grass & plenty. Good midway place for rest."	Bald Mountain (Est. TOPO El. 6526) This is an amazingly accurate (or lucky) altitude measurement by Marcy.
--	----	-----	" <u>decends to saddle</u> between it and Mt. Bird"	
--	----	-----	<u>Saddle between</u>	(at the heads of Bald Mt. Creek on the south and Fro Creek on the north) (Est. TOPO El. 5782)
--	----	-----	<u>Mt. Bird</u>	Castle Butte and ridge to the north. Elevation of the butte is 6659 feet.
--	----	-----	thence <u>along the north side</u> of Mt. Bird	
--	----	-----	<u>beginning of ridge</u>	elevation is 6066 at the small saddle
--	----	-----	<u>follows ridge past Castle Rock</u>	long ridge going northeast of Castle Butte.



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Castle Rock is not Castle Butte. It is a very grand cluster of large boulders right along the old trail.

--	----	-----	<u>Castle Rock</u>	Large un-named boulder cluster at elevation marked 6592 feet on the topo map.
--C	----	131.50	<u>Swampy Saddle</u> , "100 yards to the north"	At Indian Grave Camp (Est. TOPO El. 6280)
--	----	131.50	<u>Leaves ridge</u> 43 ½ miles from Muscle Creek	The terrain between Indian Grave Camp and Indian Postoffice does not have the pronounced ridge to follow as most of the rest of the Lolo Trail does. The old trail before 1866, which was the one followed by Lewis and Clark, left the Bird-Truax trail at Mt. Woods and went north to Snow Bridge Gulch which is in the area of the forks of Gravey, Serpent, and Horseshoe Creek. It then went east up Horseshoe Creek and down Howard Creek to Moon Creek and then up it to Indian Postoffice. The 1866 route through Saddle Camp and Moon Saddle went through very bad going for a "natural trail". This is why Nicholson referred to this as a place where the trail "left the ridge".
--	----	-----	<u>Snow Bridge Gulch</u>	(narrow canyon below forks of Gravey and Serpent Creeks) (Est. TOPO El. 4520)
--	----	-----	<u>Mt. Woods</u>	first large peak west of Saddle Camp. This is a very dark and imposing mountain when viewed from Snow Bridge Gulch. (Est. TOPO El. 6349)
--	----	-----	"thence <u>along the north side</u> of Mt. Woods"	this was a tough side hill grade to make.
--C	----	-----	<u>Saddle at head of Snow Bridge Gulch</u> , "100 yards down gulch to S."	Saddle Camp at the head of Serpent Creek (Est. TOPO El. 5420)
--	----	-----	" <u>ascends 610 feet</u> "	
--	----	-----	" <u>runs along a ridge</u> passing Tower Rock"	
--	----	-----	<u>Tower Rock</u>	Devils Chair (Est. TOPO El. 6422)
--	----	-----	<u>Start descent</u>	(Est. TOPO El. 6625)
--	----	-----	" <u>descends 480 feet</u> to near Duck Creek"	The maximum elevation of this ridge before descending is 6625 feet. Nicholson's elevation change is in excellent agreement with the topo map.
--	----	138.00	<u>Saddle at Duck Creek</u>	Saddle at Howard Camp (Est. TOPO El. 6180)
--	----	-----	<u>Duck Creek</u>	Howard Creek
--C	----	-----	<u>Duck Creek Camp</u> , "100 yards to N. & down creek."	This camping place is now called Howard Camp (Est. TOPO El. 6080)
--	----	-----	"winds around north side of one and south side of two small buttes"	
--	----	-----	<u>North side of small butte</u>	butte of elevation 6308 just east of Howard Camp. It gives excellent agreement with Nicholson's narrative.
--	----	-----	<u>South side of small butte</u>	butte of elevation 6635 just east of the previous butte. It also gives excellent agreement.
22C 6001	----	140.75	<u>Leaning Tree Camp</u> , "grass on hill side - camp on saddle"	Moon Saddle (Est. TOPO El. 6090)
--	----	-----	" <u>gradually ascends 990 feet</u> from here to a ridge"	this is the north side of a mountain that could have been called Red Mountain around 1900. Getting the trail in and out of Moon Saddle was very difficult.
--	----	-----	" <u>Lake in mid air</u> ", lake 700 ft below, enclosed by a rocky rim and fastened like the nest of a chimney swallow.	Lower lake at Indian Postoffice Lakes. It is about 590 feet below the trail.



## Pioneer Trail Research - Report #2

--C ----	143.00	<u>Inferior Grass</u> , "an inferior kind of grass on high dry ridge in this neighborhood."	Indian Post Office (Est. TOPO El. 6880) The trail reaches an elevation of 7033 feet about 0.5 miles east of here.
-- 6991	-----	<u>Ridge</u>	the trail reached the ridge at an elevation of 6730 feet just where the road goes to the old fire lookout. The maximum ridge elevation of 7033 feet is reached at Indian Postoffice.
-- ----	-----	<u>Follows ridge</u> some distance with several ups and downs. " the trail ran on the sharp angle between rocky gulches on either side."	
--C ----	148.00	<u>Swan's Springs</u> , " ½ mile up ridge to N., Good grass & plenty"	Spring at the head of Spring Creek. (Est. TOPO El. 6250) The camping place Nicholson mentions was on top of Spring Mountain. (Est. TOPO El. 6435)
--C ----	150.00	<u>Moose Lake</u> , "100 yards north, A little"	Un-named lake to north of the Lolo Trail. This is the trail head for Squaw Ridge Tr. No. 72. (Est. TOPO El. 5800)
-- ----	-----	<u>Descends</u>	
--C ----	151.50	<u>Lake Templin Saddle</u> , "down gulch to north; an abundance."	Cayuse Junction (Est. TOPO El. 5342)
-- ----	-----	<u>Camp Lake Templin</u> , "the lowest point of the divide"	exact location unknown but it was likely at either the lake or the saddle.
23 5272	151.50	<u>Lake Templin</u> , "some 300 feet below on the north side of the saddle and near the bed of the North Fork. Where we saw the first level acre of land since we left the Muscle Creek seventy three miles to the west."	This station was either at the lake or the saddle. Topographic analysis of the Journal data makes it much more likely it was at the saddle. (Est. TOPO El. 5342) Marcy's distance report of 73 miles should be 63 miles.
-- ----	-----	<u>Mt. Marcy</u>	high peak just to the east of Cayuse Junction (Est. TOPO El. 5912)
-- ----	-----	"winds and turns around the west, south, & east sides of Mt. Marcy <u>avoiding the high peak</u> "	trail crosses the present road at an altitude of 5760 feet.
-- ----	-----	"it reaches an altitude of 6000 feet on the <u>ridge to the east</u> "	trail reaches the ridge at an altitude of 6050 feet.
-- 6000	-----	<u>Ridge to the east</u>	(Est. TOPO El. 6050)
24 6845	153.00	<u>The Chief</u> , "We passed the highest point on the divide immediately after leaving Lake Templin"	un-named peak with an elevation 6885 feet. The north side of this peak was the location of the Snowbank Camp of Lewis and Clark. Marcy is incorrect about the highest point, Indian Postoffice was the highest.
-- ----	-----	<u>"runs along the backbone of most level parts of ridge"</u>	
-- ----	-----	"sweeps along the north and south sides of many small buttes"	
--C ----	156.25	<u>"Hole in the Ground"</u> , "200 yards to south, under hill; tree blazed."	below the trail and to the south and east. Trail elevation here is 6800 feet, camping place elevation is 6520 feet.
-- ----	-----	<u>Start of gradual descent</u>	(Est. TOPO El. 6897)
-- ----	-----	"makes a <u>very gradual descent of 1250 feet</u> to saddle at Independence Camp."	the trail follows the Lochsa side of the long ridge from the trail head to Lost Lakes down to Papoose Saddle.
--C ----	158.25	<u>Good grass and plenty</u>	the trail comes out into a large meadow on a steep sidehill. Trail elevation at this point is 6580 feet.
-- ----	161.25	<u>Saddle at Independence Camp</u>	Papoose Saddle (Est. TOPO El. 5647)



## Pioneer Trail Research - Report #2

--C	----	-----	<u>Independence Camp</u> , "down gulch to north."	The camping area was in the meadow to the north and east down Shotgun Creek. It is easily located.
25	6145	161.25	<u>Camp Independence</u>	The location of the station and elevation as given by Marcy are not exactly unknown. It is most likely to the east of the saddle at the first peak of Independence Ridge which has an elevation of 6130 feet.
--	----	-----	"thence along the <u>north side of Independence Ridge</u> one mile to backbone of said ridge"	the old trail went up on the ridge and not along the north side
--	----	162.25	<u>Start of the Backbone of Independence Ridge</u>	at the Road Powell Junction. (Est. TOPO El. 5872)
--	----	-----	along the <u>backbone of Independence Ridge</u> to Mt. Simpson	
26	6552	165.25	<u>Point of Rocks</u> or <u>Mt. Simpson</u>	Rocky Point (Est. TOPO El. 6260)
--	----	-----	"thence sweeping <u>around the north side</u> "	the trail of 1866 did not go over the top as the old trail did.
--	----	-----	" <u>descends to Clearwater River</u> "	the trail followed the ridge east of Rocky Point all the way to the creek
--	----	-----	<u>Clearwater River</u>	Crooked Fork of the Lochsa River
27	4229	169.00	<u>Clearwater Ford</u> , "The Clearwater at this point is 3853 feet above the same stream as at Schultz Ferry 107 miles to the west."	The ford was at a wide point in the creek at the same crossing point as Lewis and Clark. (Lewis and Clark crossed 1 ½ miles above the forks of Brushy Cr. & Crooked Fork Cr.) (Est. TOPO El. 3965)
--	----	-----	" <u>ascends 1550 feet</u> to a hill on the east side"	
--	----	-----	"Thence <u>proceeding along its summit</u> "	the trail went east up to the ridge near the large cut in the present highway. It then followed the top of the ridge east and north. The maximum trail elevation here is 5661 feet.
--	5779	-----	<u>Hill on east side</u>	reaches the ridge at an elevation of 5240 feet. The true elevation is probably the highest peak on the ridge at 5661 feet.
28	5819	-----	<u>Hill East Cl. W. Ford</u>	location unknown, the highest elevation here would be 5661 feet.
--	----	-----	" <u>descended in the main quite rapidly</u> "	
--	----	-----	" <u>descends 420 feet</u> to Takon Creek"	
--C	5359	173.00	<u>Takon Creek</u> , "good grass in abundance on prairies."	Pack Creek on the south end of Packer Meadows where they get narrow. (Est. TOPO El. 5160) This is also the location of the Glade Creek Camp of Lewis and Clark.
--	----	-----	<u>Takon Meadows</u>	Packer Meadows
29	5292	174.50	<u>Takon Creek Camp</u>	Packer Meadows on Pack Creek near the junction of the Elk Meadows Road and the road to Wagon Mountain. (Est. TOPO El. 5201)
--	----	180.00	<u>Hot Spring</u>	Lolo Hot Springs (Est. TOPO El. 4150) Nicholson's mileage is off, it should be 181.1 mi.
--	----	-----	" <u>valley of the Bitter Root Loulou</u> ."	Lolo Creek Valley
30	4016	183.00	<u>Mullins Camp</u>	Camp of Lt. John Mullan circa 1853
31	3938	-----	<u>Lu Lu Prairie</u>	



## Pioneer Trail Research - Report #2

--	----	202.00	<u>Mouth of Loulou Fork</u> (or Bitter Root Loulou)	Mouth of Lolo Creek, Montana
32	3591	203.00	<u>Lu Lu Camp</u>	
--	----	212.00	<u>Hell Gate</u>	not the town, probably the forks of the Hellgate (Clarks Fork) and St. Marys (Bitter Root) rivers.
--	----	220.00	<u>Fort Owen</u>	Fort Owen or old St. Marys Mission near Stevensville, Montana.



## **7.5' TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS**

Topographic maps showing the route from  
Lewiston, Idaho to Lolo Hot Springs, Montana.



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